

Colorado River, Segment 6

BLM



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Length: 3.8 miles

Corridor Acres: Approx. 914

Classification: Scenic

***Outstandingly Remarkable
Values:*** Scenery, Recreation,
Wildlife, Fish, Cultural, Ecological

LOCATION

Beginning at the River Mile 37.5
and ending at River Mile 34.
(State Land to Canyonlands
National Park)

Moab Field Office

Canyon Country District

San Juan County, Utah

2nd Congressional District



Utah State Office



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General Description

The Colorado River from State land at river mile 37.5 to mile 34 at the Canyonlands National Park boundary is classified as “Scenic”. The Colorado River cuts through the Kane Creek Anticline. This portion of the river forms the Shafer Basin and much of the internationally recognized viewshed for Dead Horse Point State Park. The large meander of the river at this point has been the subject of many postcards and calendar photos. This relatively remote section of the river is popular for boaters, both motorized and non-motorized. Jet boats shuttle canoe trips from the confluence of the Green and Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park using this segment of the river. In addition, outfitters market this section as part of a Cataract Canyon trip both nationally and internationally. Scenic jetboat day tours are also marketed along this part of the river. No roads dissect this peaceful stretch of the Colorado River.

The Wingate canyon in Segment 5 of the Colorado River is the riverine gateway to Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park. The river is home to important wildlife species, including four endangered fish. This stretch of the river is particularly important for wintering waterfowl, and is critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, which nest nearby. Shorebirds, songbirds and raptors also depend on this part of the river. This stretch of the river is crucial habitat for the survival of desert bighorn sheep, as the Shafer Basin is home to the “mother herd” of sheep that has been used to re-establish the species in Utah.

Summary

This segment has regionally and nationally significant Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) and designation of this segment would provide a unique scenic and recreation experience to the National System. Future congressional designation would protect free flow and ORVs. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. The area is managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas and all other surface disturbing activities in the 2008 Moab Approved Resource Management Plan. Shafer Basin on the north side of the Colorado River is managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect the relevant and important values of scenery, wildlife, natural systems and cultural resources. Finally, the segment upstream has been found suitable by the BLM. Downstream from this segment, the Colorado River enters Canyonlands National Park, and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Colorado River system.

Rivers Suitable for WSR Designation on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Utah

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